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**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL  
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**Date:** March 2, 2004

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**Message:**

Re: Supplemental Memorandum of Interview  
First Named Inventor: Pitzen, James F.  
Application No.: 10/004,724  
Case No.: 57193US002

**32692**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent  
Case No.: 57193US002**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTERFirst Named Inventor: **PITZEN, JAMES F.**Application No.: **10/004,724**Group Art Unit: **1772**Filed: **December 5, 2001**Examiner: **Nasser Ahmad**Title: **ASSEMBLAGE OF LAMINANTS FOR FORMING A GRAPHIC**MAR 02 2004  
OFFICIAL**SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW**Commissioner for Patents  
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March 2, 2004  
DateSusan P. Gumatz  
Signed by: Susan P. Gumatz

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Interview Summary in the subject application mailed by the Examiner on February 10, 2004.

Applicant's summary of the interview to which that Interview Summary referred was included with an amendment in the subject application mailed on February 11, 2004, and read as follows:

"We gratefully acknowledge the telephone interview between the undersigned attorney and the Examiner concerning the subject application held on February 4, 2004. During the interview the undersigned attorney asked clarification on the Examiner's statement in the final rejection that "the phrase "adhereable" in the claim language is still directed to a future use of the product assemblage and hence, is not found to be a positive limitation in any patentable sense". The undersigned attorney argued that use limitations can add patentable weight and that even if this were not the case, the claims have limitations beyond the use limitations that patentably distinguish the present invention from the cited art.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Russell (WO-94/23957) in view of Heuser (3,315,387) was discussed, it being our argument that while Russell describes a laminate including a graphic having a layer of pressure-sensitive

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adhesive along its rear surface so that the graphic is adhearable to a substrate by the layer of adhesive, which laminate includes a separate polymeric cover sheet overlaying the graphic portion, and a layer of removable pressure-sensitive adhesive firmly adhered to the inner major surface of the cover sheet and having its front surface removably adhered to the front surface of the graphic portion; the graphic on the laminate described by Russell is complete. In contrast, the present invention provides an assemblage of laminates, each of which laminates includes a graphic portion and a separate polymeric cover sheet overlaying the graphic portion with irregular visually distinctive mating edges shaped for edge-to-edge engagement only when the graphic portions are in a predetermined relative orientation. Thus, the assemblage of laminates according to the present invention allows large graphics, such as elongate graphics over 6 feet or 1.8 meters long to be conveniently manufactured, transported, and handled during application, while still facilitating easy and accurate installation of such graphics by either professional or non-professional installers (e.g., homeowners).

The Examiner argued that these differences are made obvious by Heuser's description of adhesive labels with alignment means in the shape of mating edges (9, 10) that extend past the peripheral edge of the cover sheet.

While not acknowledging that there is any teaching or suggestion in Heuser to modify the structure of Russell by separating its graphic laminate into adhesive labels of the type described by Heuser, Applicant's attorney argued that, even if this were obvious, the resulting structure would not be structure of the present invention as claimed in claim 1. The adhesive labels described by Heuser can be assembled in any order. There is no suggestion that those adhesive labels should be adhered to a substrate in a predetermined relative orientation to form on the substrate a graphic having a predetermined shape.

In contrast, in the assemblage of laminates according to the present invention as claimed in claim 1, the cover sheets having irregular visually distinctive mating edges shaped for edge-to-edge engagement only when the graphic portions are in a predetermined relative orientation. This feature is not shown or suggested by either Russell or Heuser or any combination thereof, and patentably distinguishes the present invention from the structures described in those references. Thus it was argued that claim 1 should be allowed, together with the claims that are

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dependent on claim 1 and recite further structural limitations that are not shown or made obvious by the cited references.

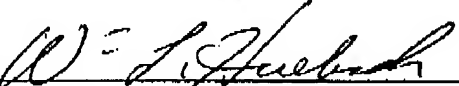
The Examiner was not persuaded by the argument, but agreed to carefully consider the appeal brief, which was being prepared."

After further consideration in view of the Examiner's remarks in the interview, instead of filing an appeal brief, claims 1-13 were redrafted as claims 14-28 which are believed to claim the present invention with greater precision in distinguishing the present invention from the cited art and to remove to a large extent the "use" language that the Examiner found not to provide "a positive limitation in any patentable sense". Those new claims 14-28 were filed with a Request for Continued Examination.

Review of the Examiner's comments on page 4 of the Interview Summary gives rise to the following clarifications and corrections. Applicant's attorney understood, but, as noted above, did not necessarily agree with, the Examiner's position on use limitations. While Applicant's attorney acknowledged that the shape of the mating edges 25 and 26 in Figure 1 of the subject application had shapes that were essentially the same as those of the mating edges of the labels described by Heuser, Applicant's attorney did not agree that "Heuser's mating edges are the same as the applicants' edges as claimed." Applicant's attorney pointed out that the mating edges 24 of the cover sheets 20 for the graphic portions 14 would only mate with each other, and would not mate with the edges 26 of the cover sheets 21, which edges 26 would only mate with each other. Thus as claimed the cover sheets 20 and 21 have irregular visually distinctive mating edges shaped for edge-to-edge engagement only when the graphic portions are in a predetermined relative orientation. Heuser's mating edges do not provide this claimed feature.

Respectfully submitted,

March 2, 2004  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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